

1989

REVEREND CLERGY, DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL,
PUBLIC OFFICIALS, FAMILY, FRIENDS AND CITIZENS OF PEABODY.

I AM PRIVILEGED TO STAND BEFORE YOU TODAY, AS YOUR MAYOR, TO
REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF OUR CITY AT THE MID-POINT OF MY CURRENT TERM
OF OFFICE. MANY OF THE GOALS SET BY THIS ADMINISTRATION HAVE BEEN
ACCOMPLISHED AND SOME ARE WELL UNDERWAY AND WILL BE COMPLETED BEFORE
THE END OF THE YEAR. THE YEAR AHEAD WILL ALSO SEE NEW GOALS
ESTABLISHED AND ISSUES THAT ARE ON-GOING WILL BE ADDRESSED ON A
CONTINUING BASIS.

MUCH OF WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS HAS
BEEN DUE TO THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND
LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES OF OUR GOVERNMENT. I WANT TO TAKE THIS
OPPORTUNITY TO THANK EACH AND EVERY MEMBER OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR

THEIR ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT.

I ALSO WANT TO THANK LAST YEAR'S CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT, LOU CERSOSIMO, FOR HIS HELP AND COOPERATION IN EFFECTIVELY MAINTAINING A SMOOTH AND ORDERLY WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE BRANCHES OF OUR GOVERNMENT.

I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO VIN RAPONI, THE NEW COUNCIL PRESIDENT FOR 1989. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH VINNIE IN ADDRESSING THE MANY ISSUES WE WILL BE FACING OVER THE NEXT YEAR.

THIS MORNING I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A SPECIAL POINT OF THANKING THE MANY PEOPLE WHO SERVE ON OUR MANY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS, WHO GIVE UNSELFISHLY OF THEMSELVES AS VOLUNTEERS TO COMMUNITY SERVICE AND MANY TIMES UNDER DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES. THEY ARE TRULY THE UNSUNG HEROES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

I ALSO WANT TO THANK OUR DEPARTMENT HEADS, STATE DELEGATION AND, OUR RANK AND FILE EMPLOYEES. WITH THEIR HELP AND COMMITMENT WE HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN WORKING TOWARDS MAKING PEABODY A BETTER PLACE IN

WHICH TO WORK AND LIVE.

IN PRIOR YEARS AND AT LAST YEAR'S INNAUGURAL, WE HAVE TALKED ABOUT THE NEED FOR FINANCIAL STABILITY IN OUR COMMUNITY. I HAVE ALWAYS FELT STRONGLY THAT IT IS IMPERATIVE GOVERNMENT SPENDING OF THE TAXPAYER'S DOLLARS MUST BE PRUDENT AND RESPONSIBLE. LET ME TAKE A MOMENT TO GIVE YOU A BRIEF REPORT.

FOR THE SIXTH YEAR IN A ROW, WE DID NOT HAVE TO BORROW IN ANTICIPATION OF TAXES, SAVING THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS IN INTEREST COSTS. OUR BONDED INDEBTEDNESS HAS BEEN REDUCED BY OVER 50% FROM \$37 MILLION TO BELOW \$17 MILLION. AS A MATTER OF FACT, WE HAVE ONLY HAD ONE BOND SALE IN NEARLY TEN YEARS. THIS PAST YEAR \$1.2 MILLION WAS BUDGETED FOR THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM WHICH IS PRESERVING THE INVESTMENT IN OUR BUILDINGS AND EQUIPMENT. OF THAT \$1.2 MILLION, \$270,000 WAS FOR SCHOOL BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS, \$297,000 WAS ALLOCATED FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO OUR WATER SYSTEM, AND \$256,000 FOR EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT, ALONG WITH A NUMBER OF SMALLER PROJECTS.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS INCLUDED \$315,000 FOR NEW FIRE EQUIPMENT, \$1.6 MILLION FOR THE RENOVATION OF THE CENTRAL FIRE

STATION, \$250,000 FOR OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION, \$1,121,000 FOR ROADS AND SIDEWALKS AND \$102,000 FOR VOTING MACHINES ALONG WITH A NUMBER OF SMALLER PROJECTS. THIS WAS ALL ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT THE NEED FOR BORROWING. THE PAST FISCAL YEAR WAS ONCE AGAIN CLOSED WITHOUT ANY REVENUE DEFICITS. THIS ALLOWED US TO START THE NEW FISCAL YEAR WITHOUT THE BURDEN OF A CARRYOVER DEFICIT.

THERE IS NOT A PERSON IN THIS AUDITORIUM TODAY WHO HAS NOT READ OR HEARD OF THE SERIOUS FINANCIAL CRISIS FACING OUR STATE AND MANY OF THE CITIES AND TOWNS ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH. MANY HAVE WONDERED HOW IT WILL IMPACT SERVICES HERE IN PEABODY. ONE YEAR AGO, THIS WEEK, IN MY INAUGURAL ADDRESS I STATED, AND I QUOTE, "I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT WHEN DEALING WITH FINANCES WE NEED TO CONCERN OURSELVES BOTH WITH THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE." I ALSO STATED, AND I QUOTE, "I BELIEVE OUR FINANCIAL SITUATION IS SUCH THAT WE CAN DEAL WITH A FLATTENING OF THE ECONOMY WITHOUT IMPACTING SERVICES." WE ARE PREPARED TO MEET THAT CHALLENGE. IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE WILL NOT BE MORE CAUTIOUS IN OUR EXPENDING OF FUNDS, OR THAT WE WILL BE LESS AGGRESSIVE IN OUR PURSUIT OF A FAIR DISTRIBUTION OF LOCAL AID FOR OUR CITY. WHAT IT DOES MEAN, IS THAT THIS CITY WILL CONTINUE ON COURSE, PROVIDING SERVICES FOR ITS CITIZENS AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE.

THE YEAR AHEAD WILL ALSO SEE MAJOR DECISIONS REGARDING THE SOUTH ESSEX SEWER DISTRICT AND MASSACHUSETTS WATER RESOURCE AUTHORITY, ALONG WITH NEW FEDERAL LEGISLATION IN REGARD TO SEWER AND WATER TREATMENT. THESE ISSUES COULD HAVE SERIOUS FINANCIAL IMPACTS ON OUR COMMUNITY. ADD TO THAT THE COST OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS AND NORMAL INCREASES OF GOODS AND SERVICES, AND THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT CONSTANT MONITORING AND THE PRUDENT EXPENDING OF CITY FUNDS ARE NECESSARY TO ASSURE STABILITY IN OUR COMMUNITY.

IN THE YEARS AHEAD FISCAL MANAGEMENT WILL BE A PRIORITY. WE WILL CONTINUE TO LOOK FOR WAYS TO BE MORE EFFICIENT. WE HAVE ESTABLISHED A COMMITTEE TO REVIEW OUR COMPUTER NEEDS FOR THE NEXT 5-7 YEARS, AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POSSIBLE NEW HARDWARE AND OTHER APPLICATIONS TO BE UNDERTAKEN. WE WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS IN OUR VARIOUS OFFICES TO CREATE A BETTER WORKING ENVIRONMENT. WE HAVE ESTABLISHED A TELEPHONE STUDY COMMITTEE TO LOOK AT OUR COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS AT CITY HALL, THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES, THE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT AND THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, WITH THE HOPE OF DEVELOPING A MORE EFFICIENT COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM.

WE HAVE TAKEN A PRUDENT APPROACH IN THE EXPENDITURE OF PUBLIC

FUNDS AND I ASSURE YOU THIS COMING YEAR WILL BE NO DIFFERENT. AS WE READ AND HEAR OF DOOM AND GLOOM IN REGARD TO FINANCES ALL OVER THIS STATE, I HAVE A DIFFERENT VISION, AND THAT IS ONE OF OPTIMISM AND PROSPERITY. THAT CAN ONLY BE ACCOMPLISHED IF WE WORK TOGETHER.

IN LAST YEAR'S INAUGURAL WE TALKED ABOUT A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT. LET ME UPDATE YOU ON A FEW, AND DISCUSS SOME NEW ONES. THIS PAST YEAR OUR SMALL CITIES GRANT PROGRAM WAS RIGHT ON SCHEDULE: HOUSING REHABILITATION PROJECTS, ROAD WORK AND OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE PROGRAM MET ALL THE CRITERIA SET FORTH BY THE COMMONWEALTH. THIS PROGRAM WILL CONTINUE THROUGH 1989 WHICH WILL BRING THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF DOLLARS COMMITTED TO THE PROGRAM TO OVER 6 MILLION DOLLARS.

IN 1986 WE INITIATED THE CITY'S FIRST OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN. THIS PLAN DID NOT COLLECT DUST ON THE SHELF. THUS FAR, NEARLY ONE MILLION DOLLARS HAS BEEN EXPENDED FOR IMPROVEMENTS. THE PAST TWO YEARS HAVE SEEN IMPROVEMENTS AT MARRS PARK FOR \$38,000, BUCKLEY FIELD FOR \$57,000, THE RECONSTRUCTION OF SYMPHONY PARK FOR \$108,000, ALONG WITH CORBEIL PARK FOR \$50,000 AND EMERSON PARK FOR \$37,000. WE CAN TAKE A GREAT DEAL OF PRIDE IN THE RECONSTRUCTION OF

LALIKOS, KENNEDY AND MACARTHUR PARKS WHICH WILL BE READY FOR USE THIS SPRING AT A COST OF CLOSE TO \$250,000. AND AT THE HIGH SCHOOL \$361,000 WAS SPENT TO REBUILD THE TENNIS COURTS, BUILD A NEW SOCCER FIELD, BASEBALL FIELD AND SOFTBALL FIELD AS WELL AS VARIOUS OTHER IMPROVEMENTS.

WE HAVE ALSO ADDED OVER 70 ACRES TO OUR OPEN SPACE INVENTORY THIS PAST YEAR. WE HAVE STARTED A BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM AT DEVIL'S DISHFUL. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT HAS SUBMITTED GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING UNDER THE CLEAN LAKES PROGRAM FOR BROWNS POND AND CRYSTAL LAKE. IT IS OUR GOAL TO CLEAN UP BOTH AREAS AND MAKE THEM VIABLE RECREATION RESOURCES FOR YEARS TO COME. WE ARE IN THE FINAL STAGES OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE M.B.T.A. REGARDING THE USE OF THE ABANDONED RAILROAD BED IN WEST PEABODY, AS A TRAIL WHICH WILL BE USED FOR RECREATION PURPOSES AND A CONNECTOR TO OTHER RECREATION AREAS.

THOUGH MUCH HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED IN THE AREA OF RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE, MUCH STILL REMAINS TO BE DONE. I WANT OUR FACILITIES TO BE THE BEST. I WANT OUR YOUNGSTERS TO GET EXCITED OVER RECREATION. I WANT OUR OLDER CITIZENS TO BE ABLE TO ENJOY OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES IN AN ENVIRONMENT THAT ENCOURAGES THEM TO PARTICIPATE.

I BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD GIVE OUR CITIZENS THE VERY BEST AND WE SHOULD CONTINUE THE COURSE WE HAVE SET. THEREFORE, I WILL BE SUBMITTING TO THE CITY COUNCIL IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE AN APPROPRIATION REQUEST OF \$300,000 TO CONTINUE OUR OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PROGRAM.

LAST YEAR WE TALKED ABOUT OUR CITY WIDE TRAFFIC STUDY AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS NECESSARY TO IMPROVE THE FLOW OF TRAFFIC. IT WAS OUR GOAL TO FOLLOW A RESPONSIBLE PROCESS. AT THIS POINT IN TIME, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PLAN, THE FOLLOWING HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED: THE WIDENING OF SUMMIT STREET IS COMPLETED. DESIGN IS NOW COMPLETE ON THE FOLLOWING INTERSECTIONS: LOWELL, RUSSELL & GOODALE; LOWELL & LAKE; LYNN & COUNTY; WITH CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN THE SPRING. ROUTE ONE & LOWELL STREET AND LOWELL & KING STREETS WILL ALSO BE IMPROVED THIS YEAR. WE HOPE THAT THESE IMPROVEMENTS, ALONG WITH A NUMBER OF STATE PROJECTS NOW UNDERWAY, WILL HELP CREATE A BETTER FLOW OF TRAFFIC THROUGH OUR COMMUNITY.

THIS PAST YEAR WE WITNESSED GREAT SUCCESS IN A NUMBER OF OUR COMMUNITY PROGRAMS. THE PRIDE IN PEABODY PROGRAM WAS EXPANDED IN A NUMBER OF AREAS MAKING IT BETTER THAN EVER. NEEDLESS TO SAY THE 5TH

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED THE PRIDE THE PEOPLE OF THIS CITY HAVE IN THEMSELVES AND THEIR HERITAGE. I AM TRULY PROUD TO BE THE MAYOR OF A CITY WHERE SO MANY GROUPS FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS CAN COME TOGETHER, RESPECT EACH OTHERS CULTURE AND HERITAGE, AND DO IT IN A SPIRIT THAT MAKES ONE PROUD TO BE A MEMBER OF THIS COMMUNITY. THESE PROGRAMS ALONG WITH THE HOLIDAY FESTIVAL, THE PEABODY EDUCATION COUNCIL AND VARIOUS OTHER PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE CITY COULD NOT FUNCTION WITHOUT VOLUNTEER MEMBERS. I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU FOR MAKING THESE MANY PROGRAMS POSSIBLE.

LAST YEAR WE ANNOUNCED THE AWARDING OF A GRANT FOR THE GEORGE PEABODY HOUSE CIVIC CENTER. TODAY I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE PROJECT IS WELL UNDERWAY AND WILL BE COMPLETED EARLY THIS SPRING. THE CENTER WILL PRESENT EXHIBITS DEPICTING THE HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY FROM ITS BEGINNING TO CURRENT TIMES.

AS WE CONTINUE TO PLAN FOR FUTURE ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE, WORK CONTINUES IN CENTENNIAL PARK WHERE CURRENTLY 300,000 SQUARE FEET OF OFFICE AND LIGHT MANUFACTURING SPACE IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION, ALONG WITH A 250 ROOM MARRIOTT HOTEL WHICH IS SCHEDULED

TO OPEN THIS FALL. BECAUSE OF THE WORK AT CENTENNIAL, WE HAVE BROADENED OUR TAX BASE AND CREATED THOUSANDS OF NEW JOBS, REPLACING JOBS LOST IN THE LEATHER INDUSTRY.

THE YEAR AHEAD WILL BE EXCITING. WE WILL SEE THE START OF THE DOWNTOWN URBAN SYSTEMS PROJECT THAT WILL PROVIDE NEARLY 3 MILLION DOLLARS FOR NEW TRAFFIC PATTERNS, STREETS, SIDEWALKS, LIGHTING AND TREES. WE WILL ALSO SEE IMPROVEMENTS TO DOWNTOWN PROPERTIES ALONG WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF WALGREENS ON THE MELLO'S BAKERY SITE. WE WILL BE STARTING THE SECOND YEAR OF THE MAIN STREET MANAGER PROGRAM AND WE EXPECT THE FARMERS MARKET TO BE BIGGER AND BETTER THIS YEAR. WORKING WITH THE CITY COUNCIL, WE HOPE TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE DOWNTOWN PARKING PLAN. BECAUSE OF OUR SUCCESS IN THE SMALL CITIES PROGRAM OUR NEIGHBORHOODS WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE WITH HOUSING REHABILITATION, ROAD IMPROVEMENTS AND OTHER NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENTS.

I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT CONSTRUCTION IS NOW UNDERWAY ON A NEW WEST BRANCH LIBRARY. THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS MADE A MAJOR COMMITMENT TO THE UPGRADING OF OUR LIBRARIES AND MAKING AVAILABLE TO OUR CITIZENS THE VERY BEST IN LIBRARY SERVICE. THE NEW BRANCH, AT A COST OF \$1.5 MILLION, WILL BE A WELCOME ADDITION TO THE CITY. IN OUR

CONTINUING EFFORT TO INCREASE THE VOLUME OF BOOKS IN OUR LIBRARIES, I WILL BE SUBMITTING AN APPROPRIATION REQUEST TO THE CITY COUNCIL FOR \$100,000 FOR THE PURCHASE OF NEW BOOKS AND MATERIALS. THIS WILL BRING OUR THREE YEAR COMMITMENT TO ALMOST HALF A MILLION DOLLARS.

OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS MAJOR PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN SUCH AREAS AS GRADE RESTRUCTURING, REVISION OF CURRICULA, EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS FOR GRADES K-8, AN ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL, AND IMPROVEMENTS TO OUR SCHOOL BUILDINGS, GROUNDS AND ATHLETIC FACILITIES.

I HOPE THAT THE UNFORTUNATE SITUATION OF THIS PAST SEPTEMBER CAN BE PUT BEHIND US, AND THAT BOTH SIDES WILL MAKE A GENUINE EFFORT TO RESTORE RELATIONS THAT WILL ULTIMATELY LEAD TO WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM. I AM PREPARED TO MEET WITH ANY AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE PEABODY TEACHING STAFF TO DISCUSS WAYS OF REBUILDING THE BRIDGES THAT WILL LEAD TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE.

IN THE PAST YEAR SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THE AREA OF PUBLIC SERVICES. LET ME GIVE YOU A BRIEF RUNDOWN. 35 STREETS WERE RESURFACED ALONG WITH THE REPLACEMENT OF HUNDREDS OF SIDEWALKS AT A

COST OF WELL OVER ONE MILLION DOLLARS. NEW EQUIPMENT WAS PURCHASED TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY TOOLS FOR EFFICIENCY. SIGNIFICANT WORK WAS ACCOMPLISHED IN EVERY AREA OF PUBLIC SERVICES.

I WILL BE SUBMITTING TO THE CITY COUNCIL NEXT WEEK THE FIRST PHASE OF THE DOWNTOWN DRAINAGE STUDY COMPLETED FOR THE CITY BY THE ENGINEERING FIRM OF CAMP, DRESSER & MCKEE. ALSO, NEXT WEEK I WILL BE MEETING WITH YOUR HONORABLE BODY TO GIVE YOU AN UPDATE ON THE STUDY, BEING DONE FOR THE CITY BY THE ENGINEERING FIRM OF WESTON & SAMPSON, CONCERNING THE EVALUATION OF WATER QUALITY DATA AND FACILITIES, PERTINENT TO THE SAFE WATER DRINKING ACT RECENTLY PASSED BY CONGRESS.

I AM ALSO PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE CITY HAS RECEIVED A MATCHING GRANT OF \$500,000 FOR REPLACING AND RELINING OLDER WATER MAINS. THE CONTRACTS WILL BE SIGNED FOR THIS MILLION DOLLAR PROJECT THIS WEEK. THE CITY HAS ALSO RECEIVED AN ADDITIONAL GRANT OF \$100,000 FOR A LEAK SURVEY PROGRAM WHICH WILL BE STARTING IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS. ADD TO THAT THE PRELIMINARY PLANNING FOR THE SAFE WATER DRINKING ACT ALONG WITH THE WATER SHED SURVEY, AT A COST OF \$100,000. THESE PROGRAMS WILL GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS IMPROVING WATER QUALITY AND FIRE FLOW, AS WELL AS PLANNING FOR FUTURE NEEDS. WE ARE WORKING ON A

NUMBER OF INITIATIVES IN PUBLIC SERVICES TO ASSURE THE PROTECTION OF OUR RESOURCES FOR YEARS TO COME.

THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS WE HAVE MADE MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS IN OUR ROADS AND SIDEWALKS. WE HAVE SAID IN THE PAST THAT WE WANT TO HAVE THE BEST ROAD NETWORK POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE SAFE TRAVEL FOR OUR CITIZENS, AND ALSO, TO IMPROVE THEIR APPEARANCE AND ENHANCE SURROUNDING PROPERTIES.

IN ORDER TO CONTINUE THE PROGRAM, AND RATHER THAN WAIT FOR THE NEW FISCAL YEAR, I WILL BE SUBMITTING AN APPROPRIATION REQUEST TO THE CITY COUNCIL IN THE NEAR FUTURE FOR \$500,000, \$400,000 OF WHICH WILL BE FOR ROADS AND \$100,000 FOR SIDEWALKS. THIS WILL ALLOW US TO CONTINUE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE SPRING AND EARLY SUMMER RATHER THAN WAIT UNTIL THE NEW FISCAL YEAR STARTS.

IN THE AREA OF PUBLIC SAFETY, IMPROVEMENTS CONTINUE TO BE MADE. IN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT 2 NEW FIRE TRUCKS ARE ON ORDER AND THE \$1.5 MILLION RENOVATION PROJECT OF FIRE HEADQUARTERS IS NEARING COMPLETION. BY THE END OF THIS YEAR ALL IMPROVEMENTS ON OUR BUILDINGS WILL HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AND ALL OUR EQUIPMENT DELIVERED. I BELIEVE THIS WILL

ALLOW OUR COMMUNITY TO BE ONE OF THE BEST EQUIPPED AND HOUSED DEPARTMENTS IN THE AREA.

THIS YEAR WE HAVE A NEW POLICE CHIEF, ROBERT CHAMPAGNE, WHO IS PREPARING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT. I AM SURE HE WILL DO AN OUTSTANDING JOB, AND WE WILL BE WORKING WITH THE CHIEF TO ASSURE THE BEST POSSIBLE POLICE PROTECTION IS PROVIDED TO THE RESIDENTS OF OUR CITY.

WE IN PEABODY PRIDE OURSELVES IN HAVING ONE OF THE BEST SENIOR CITIZEN PROGRAMS IN MASSACHUSETTS. THIS CITY HAS DEMONSTRATED ITS GENUINE CONCERN AND COMMITMENT TO OUR SENIOR CITIZENS. I BELIEVE WE ALL REALIZE THAT THE SENIOR CITIZEN POPULATION IS GROWING SIGNIFICANTLY. THEREFORE, I WILL BE SUBMITTING TO THE CITY COUNCIL IN THE NEAR FUTURE AN APPROPRIATION REQUEST OF \$15,000 FOR A FEASIBILITY STUDY TO DETERMINE THE ADVISABILITY OF BUILDING A NEW COMPREHENSIVE SENIOR CENTER THAT WILL PROVIDE OUR ELDERLY WITH SERVICES AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES UNDER ONE ROOF. IN THE COMING WEEKS I WILL BE ANNOUNCING THE FORMATION OF A COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCOMPLISHING THIS GOAL.

RECENTLY, I WAS NOMINATED TO SERVE AS PRESIDENT OF THE

MASSACHUSETTS MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE COMING YEAR. MEMBERS WILL BE VOTING ON THE NOMINATION THIS COMING SATURDAY. THIS INVOLVES REPRESENTING THE INTERESTS OF THE 351 CITIES AND TOWNS IN MASSACHUSETTS.

I HOPE TO BE ABLE TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS LEADING OUR STATE WIDE ORGANIZATION THROUGH VERY TRYING TIMES. I ALSO WANT TO CONGRATULATE SHARON KOKORAS WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE MASSACHUSETTS MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION. I AM SURE SHE WILL MAKE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION AS WE MOVE FORWARD TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF 1989.

THE YEAR AHEAD WILL BE EXCITING. WE WILL BE COMPLETING THE GEORGE PEABODY HOUSE CIVIC CENTER, THE NEW WEST BRANCH LIBRARY, AND CENTRAL FIRE HEADQUARTERS. WORK WILL CONTINUE ON THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE, THE URBAN SYSTEMS PROJECT AND A NUMBER OF OTHER TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS. THE STUDY FOR A NEW SENIOR CENTER WILL COMMENCE AND THE PARK AND RECREATION OPEN SPACE PROGRAM WILL BE MOVING INTO THE NEXT PHASE OF OUR FIVE (5) YEAR PLAN. ALSO COMMUNITY PROGRAMS ARE PLANNED FOR THE MONTHS AHEAD. PRESENTLY UNDERWAY ARE WATER AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS, PARKING AND STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS. ADDED TO ALL OF THE ABOVE, WE ARE WORKING ON IMPROVEMENTS IN OUR COMPUTER SYSTEM, OUR

COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM, PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCIES, AND THE SCHOOL SYSTEM. TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION ALL OF THE GOALS, PROJECTS AND IMPROVEMENTS MENTIONED, WE HAVE A VERY BUSY YEAR PLANNED. ACCOMPLISHING THESE GOALS WILL REQUIRE COOPERATION, HARD WORK, PATIENCE AND UNDERSTANDING.

WE ARE HONORED BEING ELECTED AS YOUR LEADERS. WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO FULFILL THE CONFIDENCE YOU HAVE PLACED IN US. IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE DECISIONS AND DEVELOP WAYS OF IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN OUR COMMUNITY. THIS WILL REQUIRE, FROM TIME TO TIME, MAKING TOUGH DECISIONS, AND YES, FROM TIME TO TIME, MISTAKES WILL BE MADE. WE MUST FORGE AHEAD AND CREATE IN OUR MINDS A VISION OF WHAT WE WANT OUR COMMUNITY TO BE AND HOW WE CAN MAKE IT BECOME THE BEST POSSIBLE PLACE TO LIVE.

AS WE START THE NEW YEAR, LET US ALL RENEW OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR COMMUNITY, AND I PLEDGE TO YOU THIS MORNING, THAT I WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH A RENEWED EFFORT, AS WELL AS, THE TYPE OF LEADERSHIP THAT WILL ELEVATE THIS COMMUNITY TO THE GREATEST HEIGHTS IT COULD POSSIBLY ACHIEVE. THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU.

